RULES & ORDERS,

FOR THE

RELIEF AND EMPLOYMENT

OF THE

POOR

OF THE PARISHES OF

Great Packington, Little Packington, Meriden, and Bickenhill,

Solihull, Hampton & Berkswell

IN THE

COUNTY OF WARWICK.

UNITED BY VIRTUE AND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATUTE OF THE 22 GEO. III. CAP. 83.

AND FOR THE

Government of the Poor Houſe

Belonging to the ſaid Pariſhes,

ERECTED IN THE YEAR 1793.

Bimingham,

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Rules & Orders, &c.

ARTICLE I.

THE ſeveral officers to be annually appointed by the Juſtices at Eaſter for the united pariſhes, in purſuance of the ſtatute, are, a *Viſitor*, a *Treaſurer*, a *Governor* of the poor houſe, and one *Guardian* of the poor for each pariſh.

II. The duty of the viſitor is to ſuperintend the poor houſe, to ſettle all diſputes relating to the accounts, or to the admiſſion of paupers, and to promote and enforce the rules and proviſions eſtabliſhed for the relief and accommodation of the poor, and to prevent all unneceſſary expence to the pariſhes; and the governor, guardians, and treaſurer are to obſerve and obey his directions.

The viſitor may appoint a deputy, who ſhall in his abſence act as inſpector of the

ſeveral matters committed to the care of the viſitor, and ſhall make his report to him, and render him all the aſſiſtance in his power.

III. The guardians have like powers and authority with the overſeers of the poor (except as to making and collecting rates) and are liable to the ſame penalties.

IV. The viſitor and guardians of the ſeveral pariſhes have the ſole management and direction of the poor houſe, and of all perſons maintained and employed therein; and no perſon is to be admitted into, or diſcharged from the poor houſe, without the order of them, or ſome, or one of them.

They are to attend at the poor houſe, or ſend ſome ſubſtantial inhabitant of the pariſh to attend for them reſpectively, the firſt Monday in every month, at ten o'clock, or t ſuch day and hour in the firſt week of every month as they ſhall appoint (under penalty of forty ſhillings for each default); to inſpect the ſtate of the poor, to examine the accounts, and make ſuch orders as may be neceſſary. It is alſo their duty to inſpect the houſe as often as may be convenient at other times, to hear the complaints of the poor,

poor, and to make their report to the monthly meeting.

The viſitor and guardians may lend out ſpinning wheels to the induſtrious poor in the ſeveral pariſhes, and ſupply them with work, if they cannot get employment elſewhere.

V. The churchwardens and overſeers of the poor of the ſeveral pariſhes (or one of them out of each pariſh, by himſelf or ſufficient deputy) ſhall attend the monthly meetings, and produce their accounts. They ought alſo to acquaint the viſitor and guardians at ſuch meeting with the ſtate of the poor in their reſpective pariſhes, and to point out fit objects for relief. To give notice of all perſons coming into the pariſh likely to be chargeable, and deliver all certificates, paſſes, orders of removal and baſtardy, and other papers reſpecting the poor, to the viſitor and guardians, to be depoſited in ſafe cuſtody. They are to pay all ſuch expences as relate to the out-poor under the direction of the viſitor and guardians; to find employment for ſuch of them as are in want of it; and they may call on the ſurveyors of the highways to aſſiſt them in ſo doing.

They muſt alſo, out of the rates to be collected by them, pay to the treaſurer ſuch ſums as ſhall be ordered by the viſitor and guardians, either for the general expences of the poor houſe, or for the proviſion and maintenance of the poor therein, which will be allowed in their accounts.

VI. The ſums to be paid for the general expences of the poor houſe, including buildings, alterations, repairs, furniture, and rent, and alſo utenſils and materials for manufactory, and the ſalary or allowance to the governor and ſervants, ſhall be proportioned to the rates of the ſeveral pariſhes, according to the table ſettled by the viſitor and guardians under the directions of the ſtatute.

The ſums to be paid by each pariſh for proviſions, firing, and other neceſſaries for the maintenance of the poor, and of the governor and ſervants of the houſe, ſhall be in proportion to the number of poor perſons ſent; and an account ſhall be kept with each pariſh, in which they ſhall be charged with their reſpective ſhares of the ſums paid for proviſions, firing, and other neceſſaries, in the like proportion, and alſo with the cloathing,

ing, and other things found, or expences paid for the poor belonging to them reſpectively, and ſhall be allowed the amount of the value of their labour, as well as the ſums paid by the overſeers on that account.

The account of each pariſh ſhall be made up at the end of the year, and the balances paid.

VII. The treaſurer is to receive all ſums contributed by or on account of the united pariſhes, and to pay all bills, and other expences allowed and ordered by the viſitor and guardians at their monthly meetings. He muſt lay his accounts before them at ſuch meetings for their inſpection, and annually make up a general account of the expences of the poor houſe, under the ſeveral heads before mentioned, of the numbers maintained and employed therein, diſtinguiſhing their age and ſex, of the nature of their employment, and of the money earned by their labour, to be laid before the Juſtices at the Michaelmas ſeſſion, being firſt allowed by the viſitor, and tranſmitted to the Clerk of the Peace.

No bill above five pounds is to be paid either by the treaſurer or governor of the

poor houſe, till it has been laid before the viſitor and guardians at their meeting.

VIII. The governor and miſtreſs of the poor houſe ſhall reſide conſtantly therein, and never both be abſent at the ſame time.

The governor ſhall have the care, management, and employment of all the poor ſent to the poor houſe, and alſo the charge of all the furniture in the houſe, and ſhall keep an inventory thereof, which ſhall be examined by the viſitor and guardians as often as they ſhall think proper. He ſhall provide whatever is wanting, by order of the viſitor and guardians (but not otherwiſe). He ſhall alſo under their direction provide flax, hemp, wool, and other raw materials, and wheels, and other implements for the employment of the poor, and ſhall have charge of the ſame, and of the goods manufactured therefrom.

He ſhall, under the direction of the viſitor and guardians, order in from the perſons appointed to ſupply the ſame, ſuch proviſions as may be neceſſary, according to to the number of perſons in the houſe, and ſhall examine the goodneſs and weight thereof, and give an exact account to the viſitor

viſitor and guardians at their monthly meetings.

The bill of fare for each meal in the week, ſhall be directed by the viſitor and guardians, at their monthly meeting, which ſhall be properly prepared according to the numbers in the houſe, and ſerved to the poor therein by the governor and miſtreſs, in the ſchool room, at the hours appointed. The governor and miſtreſs may take their meals afterwards, in their own apartment or elſewhere, as may be regulated by the viſitor and guardians.

The governor ſhall keep an account of the name, age, pariſh, admiſſion, and diſcharge of each perſon ſent to the houſe; of all receipts and payments by him made; and two diſtinct accounts every month, one of the ſums expended for proviſions, and one of the other general expences; alſo an account of the manufactory, of materials bought, goods manufactured, and of the earnings of each perſon employed, and ſuch other accounts as ſhall be directed by the viſitor and guardians. He ſhall attend divine ſervice every Sunday, with ſuch of the poor as are able; ſhall ſay grace before and after meals;

meals; and read ſuch morning and evening prayers as ſhall be directed by the viſitor and guardians.

The governor is to be appointed by two Juſtices (being recommended by the guardians of the united pariſhes) with ſuch ſalary as ſhall be agreed upon; and may be removed by the viſitor and guardians on complaint and ſufficient proof of miſbehaviour or incapacity.

IX. The miſtreſs ſhall take care that all the rooms are kept perfectly clean, that the beds are made, and the windows of the ſleeping rooms ſet open every morning before breakfaſt; ſhall ſee that all the poor in the houſe go to bed, and all the fires and candles are extinguiſhed, at nine o'clock in the ſummer half-year, and eight in the winter; and that the women and children are kept clean in their perſons and clothes. She ſhall take care to have all the linen waſhed as often as ſhall be neceſſary; and ſhall employ ſuch of the women and girls as are fit for it, in cooking, waſhing, ſcouring, and other houſhold work, in turns, and alſo in making and mending the clothes of the poor in the houſe; and ſhall keep an account of the

names

names and days when they are taken from ſpinning and other work, to be ſo employed, and alſo an account of the linen and other things under her charge.

It being found neceſſary to employ as an aſſiſtant to the miſtreſs, a proper perſon to ſuperintend the working room;—her duty is to continue there with the children all the working hours, and to inſtruct them in ſpinning, knitting, ſewing, and other work; to ſee that they are attentive to their work, and behave with decency and propriety; and in caſe of miſconduct, to report the offender to the governor, or to the viſitor and guardians.

X. The ſchoolmaſter ſhall inſtruct all the children in the houſe in reading (but not in writing without the direction of the viſitor and guardians). He ſhall teach them the church catechiſm, and the principles of their religious and moral duty, as far as they are capable of learning, and in general decency and good behaviour. They ſhall be divided into claſſes, that no child may be taken from work more than two hours each day.

XI.

XI. The ſurgeon or apothecary, to be appointed by the viſitor and guardians, ſhall examine the paupers previous to their admiſſion, ſhall viſit the ſeveral perſons in the houſe, at leaſt once a week, or oftener if need be, and ſhall adminiſter ſuch medicines, and give ſuch directions as to diet, as he thinks requiſite; and ſhall make a report of the ſtate of the poor in the houſe, and of the patients under his care, to the viſitor and guardians, at the monthly meetings.

XII. Proper objects for admiſſion, are—ſingle perſons, or married ones without families, who are, from age or infirmity, unable to maintain themſelves, and the children of thoſe who cannot or will not maintain them. But no child, under ſeven years old, ought to be taken in, without the conſent of its parents, and a ſpecial order of the viſitor and guardians. No perſon labouring under any infectious diſorder, ſhall be admitted into the poor-houſe. All poor perſons muſt be ſent clean and decently clothed, and with a ſufficient change of linen, at the expence of the pariſh to which they belong.

Perſons received for temporary relief only, ſhall not be deprived of their houſhold goods or other property.

All caſual poor, in either of the united pariſhes, ſhall be relieved and taken care of at the poor-houſe, by order of the guardian, and the expences (to be allowed by a Juſtice of the peace) are to be paid by the guardians of the poor of the pariſh to which they belong, or if the ſettlement cannot be found, or is in another county, out of the county rates.

The overſeers of the ſeveral pariſhes ſhall not allow any weekly penſion to any perſon out of the poor-houſe, without the expreſs direction of the viſitor and guardians; and in caſe of ſickneſs or accident, ſhall give ſuch relief as they ſhall think neceſſary, and ſhall deliver a report of the ſame to the viſitor and guardians, at their next meeting, who ſhall allow ſo much as they ſhall judge reaſonable.

Poor perſons wanting relief, are to apply in the firſt inſtance to the guardian of the pariſh to which they belong, and then if redreſs is refuſed, to the the viſitor, and if he does not order ſufficient relief, then they may apply to a Juſtice, who ſhall in that caſe

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(but not unleſs ſuch previous application ſhall appear to him to have been made) ſummons the guardian of the pariſh, and give ſuch direction as he ſhall judge proper.

Every perſon ſent to the poor-houſe, muſt bring an order, ſigned by the guardian of the pariſh to which ſuch perſon belongs, to be delivered to the governor, who ſhall keep the ſame, and make his entry of admiſſion therefrom. Poor children may be put out by the viſitor and guardians, to any reputable perſons in or near the pariſh to which they belong, at ſuch weekly allowance as ſhall be agreed on, an account whereof ſhall be given to the viſitor, who ſhall ſee that they are properly treated, and order them to be removed if he finds juſt cauſe ſo to do: and when ſuch children are of a proper age, they ſhall be placed out as ſervants or apprentices, at the expence of the pariſh to which they belong.

The guardians of each pariſh ſhall, on application of any poor perſon, who cannot get employment, agree for the labour of ſuch perſon, in any employment ſuited to his or her capacity; and cauſe ſuch perſon to be maintained, lodged, and provided for,

and

and ſhall receive the money earned by ſuch labour, and apply it in ſuch maintenance, giving ſuch poor perſon the overplus, if any. And if ſuch poor perſon ſhall refuſe to work, or run away, complaint ſhall be made to a Juſtice of Peace, who may commit the offender to the houſe of correction.

RULES

RULES & ORDERS,

FOR

The Internal Government

OF THE

POOR HOUSE,

AND OF THE

PERSONS EMPLOYED THEREIN.

THE ſeveral perſons ſent to the poor-houſe, who are capable of doing any work, ſhall be employed by the governor in ſome labour which may be beſt ſuited to their ſtrength and capacity.

The governor ſhall take particular care to keep the houſe and the apartments therein, and the perſons who ſhall inhabit the ſame, clean and wholeſome; and for that purpoſe he ſhall employ ſuch of the poor as ſhall be ſent thither, as he ſhall think beſt qualified, to aſſiſt him therein; and alſo in providing and dreſſing the victuals; and if any ſuch poor perſon ſhall refuſe or neglect to perform the work in which he or ſhe ſhall be

be employed or ſhall be directed to do by the governor, every ſuch perſon ſhall be puniſhed by confinement or alteration of diet, in ſuch manner as the governor ſhall direct; and for a ſecond offence, complaint ſhall be made to a Juſtice of Peace, who, on conviction, ſhall commit ſuch perſon to the houſe of correction, for any time not exceeding two, nor leſs than one calendar month.

The apartments ſhall be adapted ſo as to accommodate the poor in the beſt manner they are capable of. The governor ſhall place in the beſt apartments ſuch poor perſons, as, having been creditable houſekeepers, are reduced by misfortune, in preference to thoſe who are become poor by vice and idleneſs; and ſeparate apartments ſhall be provided for the ſick, and an apothecary, or ſurgeon, to attend them when neceſſary.

Such poor perſons as are able to work, ſhall be called up by ring of bell, and ſet to work by ſix in the morning, from Lady-day to Michaelmas, and by eight, from Michaelmas to Lady-day; and continue till four in the afternoon, from Michaelmas till Lady-day, and till ſix from Lady-day to Michaelmas (meal times, and times for reaſonable recreation excepted) and if any poor perſon

ſhall refuſe or neglect to do ſuch work as ſhall be allotted him or her, or wilfully ſpoil the ſame, or depart from the houſe without leave from the governor, or ſhall be guilty of any diſorder or diſobedience of theſe rules and orders, the governor ſhall reprove ſuch perſon, and puniſh him or her by confinement or alteration of diet, as he ſhall think fit; and for the ſecond offence, ſhall complain to the viſitor, who may order the puniſhment of confinement to be increaſed as he ſhall think proper.

The governor ſhall viſit the ſeveral perſons maintained in the houſe, and their apartments, once at leaſt every day, and ſhall take care that there is no waſte of fire, candles, or proviſions; and ſhall ſee that the fires and candles are put out at the hours fixed for ſuch perſons going to bed, which ſhall be at eight between Michaelmas and Lady-day, and at nine between Lady-day and Michaelmas.

If any perſon ſhall die in the houſe, the governor ſhall take care that the body be immediately removed to a ſeparate apartment, and be decently buried, as ſoon as conveniently may be, and alſo take care of the clothes and goods of ſuch perſon, and deliver

deliver them to the guardian of the poor of the pariſh to which ſuch perſon did belong, who is to pay the charges of the funeral.

No poor perſon ſhall be permitted to go out of the poor houſe, nor any perſon to come in (except the perſons maintained and employed therein) without permiſſion of the governor. No ſpirituous liquors ſhall be drank in the houſe at all, nor any other liquors brought in without his permiſſion.

The governor ſhall diſmiſs from the poor houſe every perſon who, in the opinion of the viſitor and guardians, ſhall be thought improper to continue any longer, on an order from them for that purpoſe.

If any poor perſon ſhall embezzle or waſte any goods or materials committed to his or her charge, or ſhall take away (without permiſſion of the governor) any goods or materials belonging to the houſe, or to any perſon therein, ſuch perſon ſhall, on conviction before one Juſtice of the Peace, be committed to the houſe of correction for not leſs than two months.

The poor in the houſe ſhall at all times demean themſelves peaceably and quietly; ſhall not ſwear, quarrel, or give rude language,

guage, or be guilty of any uncivil or indecent behaviour, on pain of being puniſhed by the governor; and if they offend again, complaint ſhall be made to the viſitor.

The names of thoſe who are guilty of any offence or miſconduct, ſhall be entered in a black book, to be kept for that purpoſe.

For the encouragement of thoſe who ſhall perform the work in which they are employed with care and diligence, rewards ſhall be given them from time to time, at the diſcretion of the viſitor and guardians.

Theſe latter rules and orders ſhall be publicly read by the governor to all the poor in the houſe once a month.

THE END.

Manufactures of the Year
ending Easter 1794

1709	lb.	Jersey Spun	46 . 4 .
1522		Wool 40	12 . 13
160	.	Flax	2 . 19
2977		Handkerchief Wove	27 . 11
581	yds	Jammy Do	5 . 2
36	lb.	Blanketing	10
118	yds	Linen Do	1 . 11
			96 . 10

50 persons in the House
on an Average —

Maintenance 2 . 1½ each per Week